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PTQ6728

PAGE 01
ACTION SCT-00

BUENOS 07082 201950Z

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-00	ARA-01	A-00	CA-02
	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	L-01
	ADS-00	M-00	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIS-01
	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-09	G-00	/043W			

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P 091727Z NOV 95 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8871
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCCC//
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 007082

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PTER, PGOV, AR
SUBJECT: AMIA CASE: EX-SERGEANT'S STORY MET WITH
SKEPTICISM

1. THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE IN THE 1994 BOMBING OF THE
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PAGE 02
ARGENTINE JEWISH MUTUAL ASSOCIATION (AMIA), JUAN JOSE

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GALEANO, INTERVIEWED THE FORMER ARMY SERGEANT WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE TERRORIST ATTACK AND HAS DECIDED TO REFER HIM FOR PYSCHIATRIC EVALUATION RATHER THAN HOLD HIM IN CUSTODY. GALEANO HAS TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE EX-SERGEANT, PEDRO RICARDO FONSECA, HAS A TROUBLED HISTORY, INCLUDING AN ABYSMAL DISCIPLINARY RECORD WHILE IN THE ARMY. FONSECA, BEFORE BEING DISCHARGED IN 1991, REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN RATED AT 'ZERO' ON A SCALE OF ONE HUNDRED, AND WAS ACCUSED OF SPOUSE ABUSE AND HEAVY DRINKING. BETWEEN 1989 AND AUGUST 1991, FONSECA REPORTEDLY WAS SANCTIONED FOR BAD CONDUCT ON 438 DAYS.

2. ALTHOUGH GALEANO HAS NOT INDICATED WHEN HE WILL TAKE UP THE MATTER AGAIN, AUTHORITIES ARE PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY. GALEANO, INTERIOR MINISTER CORACH, AND THE INTELLIGENCE SECRETARIAT ARE ALL QUOTED AS SAYING THAT, SO FAR, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO CORROBORATE FONSECA'S STORY. GALEANO'S ONLY PUBLIC COMMENT HAS BEEN TO CALL THIS TESTIMONY JUST ONE OF THE MANY HUNDREDS OF DEPOSITIONS TAKEN SO FAR.

3. COMMENT: AS WITH ANY HIGH PROFILE CRIME, THE SIGNIFICANT REWARD MONEY OFFERED IN THE AMIA BOMBING IS A STRONG INCENTIVE FOR WOULD-BE "CONFESSORS" AND OTHER INFORMANTS. WHILE INVESTIGATORS ARE BUSY CHECKING OUT FONSECA'S CLAIMS, GALEANO IS PRUDENTLY TAKING THE STORY WITH A LARGE GRAIN OF SALT AND PUBLICLY DOWNPLAYING THE LEAD IN ORDER NOT TO CREATE FALSE EXPECTATIONS OF A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH.

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BUENOS 07082 201950Z

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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-00	ARA-01	A-00	CA-02
	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	L-01
	ADS-00	M-00	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIS-01
	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00

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P 091727Z NOV 95 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8871
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCCC//
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